

News Release

U of M Crookston Faculty to Present at National NACTA Meeting

By Harouna Maiga, Elizabeth Tollefson, Kathryn Webster on Thursday, June 7, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (JUNE 8, 2007) – Four University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) faculty are to present an oral presentation at the National North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) meeting at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, June 20-22, 2007. The presentation is about the scholarship of teaching and learning as applied to the area high school students outreach program at UMC.

Faculty members Harouna Maiga, Lyle Westrom, Terrill Bradford and Ardell Knudsvig are conducting an oral presentation on an interdisciplinary and collaborative learning project for area high schools students that was established to enhance student learning in applying sciences to agriculture using technology. The project is a decade old partnership between high schools and UMC. The interdisciplinary learning involved 25 subject areas. High school instructors and UMC faculty developed laboratory lessons completed in UMC labs using specialized equipment, supplies, facilities, and technology.

Content of lessons taught have been based upon school requests to meet their curriculum needs, specifically areas that students could not complete at their high school facility. Teaching and learning focused on artificial insemination of farm animals, cryogenesis, animal development, electrophoresis, in vitro plant cell tissue propagation, biotechnology/bioethics, and computer/internet applications. The schools prepared for the UMC sessions with pre-lab activities in their respective classes. Laboratory activities were coordinated through in-class visits at UMC. In class activities were taught by UMC faculty, staff and UMC students.

Follow up activities were conducted by the high school teachers or via the Internet. An Internet web site was organized to contain information on activities, resources, results, photos and comments from students and high school teachers. The scholarship of reaching and learning in this project was guided by six qualitative standards: clear goals, adequate preparation, appropriate methods, significant results, effective presentation and reflective critique. Each laboratory session had a clear goal, teaching objectives and learner outcomes. Over six thousand students from nearly 100 schools have been impacted by this outreach project.

To learn more about the presentation, contact Associate Professor Harouna Maiga at 218-281-8107 (hmaiga@umn.edu).

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. UMC is dedicated to helping students and the region aim higher, reach further and dream bigger dreams. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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